

The Plant Mural in Autumn

Walking (or Biking) to Tawes

The Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden & Arboretum doesn't just serve as the campus of the MD Department of Natural Resources, located on the corner of Rowe Blvd. and Taylor Ave. It's also a State Park, free and open to the public from sunrise to dusk every day of the year.

And one of the best ways to get to it? Walking or biking! Now that the heat of summer has abated, ditch the car and experience Annapolis in a whole different way. Coming or going, the Tawes

The
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Garden is at the center of an expanding network of walking, hiking, and biking trails designed to access all parts of the city, and far beyond. Let's take a walk:

Starting from the West steps of the Maryland State house, the high central point of downtown Annapolis with all its sights, it's an easy 20/30-minute stroll down Bladen St. and across College Creek Bridge, with pauses to admire the fine views from its pedestrian walkways, to the corner of Sachs Dr. and Rowe Blvd. Turn left on Sachs to the walk-in, handicapped-accessible entrance to the Garden, or go a little farther to the Tawes Building, which allows access to the Garden through its Lobby. (If you go through the Lobby, check in at the Security desk; if using the walk-in entrance no ID is required. The Lobby contains displays, bathrooms, and a bike rack by the front door.)

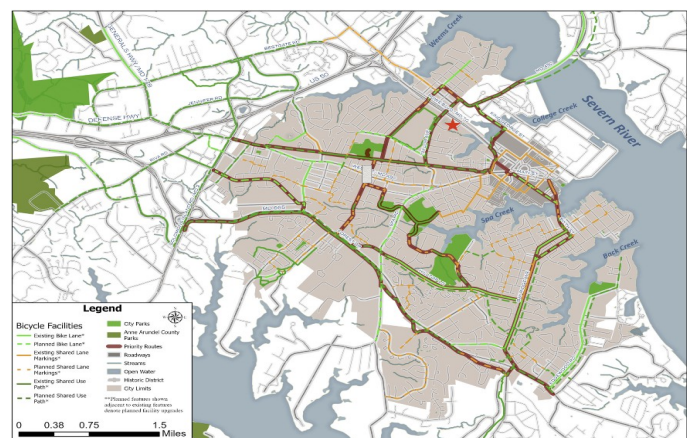
Now we're in the Garden, a passive recreation park designed to showcase different regions of the state and featuring paths and boardwalks winding through shady woodland, occasional statuary, a pond with fountain, a patio and lawns for picnicking, benches for relaxing or bird watching, and a display garden showcasing native perennials that attract butterflies, bees and other beneficial insects. There's also a self-guided QR-code tour for further information. Dogs are welcome on leash. Enjoy!

But the Tawes Garden doesn't have to be the endpoint of a walk. Once it's been fully explored there's a whole range of walking and biking options beyond. These are a few of them:

Exit the Garden and turn right on Taylor Ave. to cross Rowe Blvd. by Graul's Market (drinks and sandwiches are available from the deli), and enter West Annapolis with its boutique shops and trendy restaurants. Only about a mile further on is the Naval Academy Bridge, open to walkers and bikers as well as car traffic, which provides magnificent views up and down the Severn River.

Alternatively, turning left from the Garden onto Taylor Ave. leads to the West St. Arts & Entertainment District, one of the liveliest parts of downtown, and also to the Poplar Trail, a short (1mile) hiking/biking trail roughly paralleling West St. which is in the process of expansion toward both downtown and Parole.

And here's the best part: The City of Annapolis is engaged in an ambitious project to greatly improve and expand its whole trail network. (See map showing Tawes Garden starred.) And the Tawes Garden is right at the heart of the project map. Someday it may be possible for bikers (and true hikers) to access much of the State right from the Tawes Garden. Or just sit on a Garden bench listening to the fountain, savoring the peace and quiet, and contemplating the many possibilities all around.



We're on the Road to the Holidays! Come Join Us!

BUS TRIP
LONGWOOD GARDENS
"A Longwood Christmas"



sponsored by Friends of Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden, Inc.

Wednesday, December 4
10:00 am - 8 pm

Cost of \$135/person includes
luxury motor coach transportation,
admission to the event, snacks and beverages

***For more information or to make reservations,
please call 410-570-4465***

All proceeds benefit the Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden & Arboretum

Hillwood Museum & Gardens Tour

Fifty plus years after Marjorie Merriweather Post's own departure from her Hillwood estate, staff & volunteers were there to welcome us in her name during our September 25th bus trip. Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens occupies 13 acres nestled along Rock Creek Park in northwest DC. It consists of a mansion house-museum, surrounded by various outbuildings, numerous garden "rooms" and grounds. Several of us began our visit by viewing a short orientation film in the visitor center. Then it was time to explore the estate.

The mansion was purposefully designed to be both a comfortable home and museum. The house is filled with Mrs. Post's many beautiful collections alongside everyday things. One is encircled by the finest French porcelain and decorative arts, royal portraits and landscape paintings, antique furniture from Europe, as well as avant-garde 20th century American art pottery. Mrs. Post made a point of using the items in her collections rather than just possessing them. What began as collecting art and antiques for personal enjoyment, expanded into the rescue of important Tsarist Russia artifacts. Beginning from the time she and her third, diplomat husband were assigned to Moscow, Mrs. Post gathered up Russian imperial items as the cash-strapped Soviet government was selling them off or breaking them down for their precious metals or gemstones. She collected Fabergé eggs, Russian Orthodox icons and much more. The artwork was not confined to the house.

The statuary collection includes pieces placed among the numerous garden "rooms" around the home. Each room is done in a unique style and they are linked through a series of pathways. The rose garden, French parterre, Putting Green, and Japanese-style garden are just a few of these outdoor spaces. The parterre is

furnished with, among other things, marble sphinxes and two massive green glass hanging lamps. The Cutting Garden was still in bloom during our visit.

Our garden docents explained the evolution of this garden from regimented layout that, in the past, would have been cut

completely back before fall to now more loosely organized plant associations that were left at the end of the season to benefit wildlife.

The grounds were beautiful even at the start of fall. This was of course in part due to the form and structure provided by trees and shrubs. Among the more exotic trees are Dawn Redwood and Deodar Cedar. Eight staff horticulturists and many volunteers keep the grounds looking impeccable. Not an easy task: at the time of our visit, they were in the midst of their seasonal changeover, laying out and planting thousands of mums.

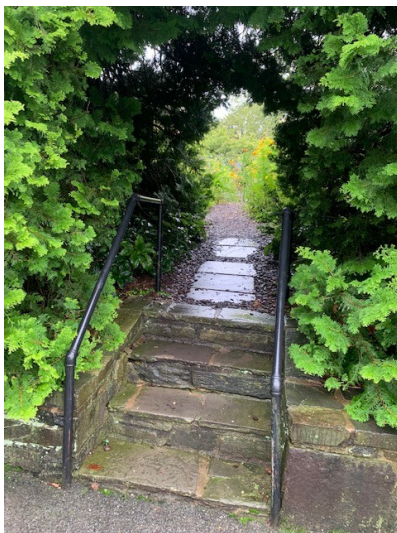


Photo by Makenna



The
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Photo by Makenna

Ringed the mansion house and main drive are buildings that formerly housed staff or were “follies” meant to showcase exhibits. There is an immaculate greenhouse that houses a very interesting variety of plants from Fiddle-leaf Figs to complex orchid hybrids – all beautifully cared for. The estate is home to a Collections and Research Center that attracts scholars from around the world.

Hillwood is a remarkable place, well worth our time and a return visit. Mrs. Post was not merely a collector and lover of beautiful things. She loved sharing her good fortune with others, providing hospitality & gracious welcome at her home for everyone, from the world famous to those in her employment. It was her intention from the beginning to share Hillwood with the public and we are the fortunate beneficiaries.

Lisa Siciliano



Tawes Garden Celebrates Native Plants

The Tawes Garden patio was awash with native plants on a beautiful September Saturday for the second annual Native Plant Celebration. The Celebration was organized by the Master Gardeners, University of Maryland Extension, Anne Arundel County, a group which volunteers weekly at Tawes. There were almost a dozen exhibitors, representing local organizations which promote the use of native plants to support essential pollinators and wildlife. Some of the participating organizations were Project Butterfly & Bumblebee, Chesapeake Coastal Services, Master Gardener Native Pollinator Group, Watershed Stewards, Master Gardener Composting and Save Our Trees. The Friends of Tawes Garden had a table as well to showcase what they do in support of the Garden and to advertise their upcoming bus tours to Hillwood Museum & Gardens in DC and the December 4 trip to Longwood Gardens for "A Longwood Christmas". In addition, the Gift Shop in the DNR building lobby was open for business and enjoyed a banner day.



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Visitors were able to talk with experts in the field of native plants, pollinator habitat, soil conservation, mature tree preservation and home composting. Many exhibitors had fun giveaways in addition to excellent

informational brochures and landscaping suggestions. The undisputed stars of the Celebration were the almost 100 native plants which were generously provided by the Master Gardener Native Pollinator group and the Friends of Tawes Garden. Everyone who attended on Saturday went home with at least one native plant, and several folks walked away with an entire tray. Given that fall is the ideal time to be thinking about new



plantings, these were a timely way to remember the day. Hopefully, these plants will find new homes and provide nectar, seeds and habitat for local pollinators and wildlife in the years ahead.

The Tawes Garden looked splendid, with many native plants still blooming in the Plant Mural, the recently repaired Eastern Shore boardwalk and an impressive new pond fountain. Over the past four years, the Plant Mural in particular has been the focus of Master Gardeners, who, led by Suzanne Weber, Tawes Horticulturist, have been gradually transitioning the Mural's design from largely bedding annuals to native perennials and shrubs. It is now an exuberant display, filled with dozens of different native plants and home to an army of bees, butterflies and birds. Although summer is the height of color for most plants, the Mural also showcases varieties that are fall-blooming, such as New England asters, and many summer-blooming plants maintain beautiful foliage and seed heads into the fall months. In October, Master Gardeners will continue their transition plans by replacing non-native grasses and invasive liriopse and ivy near the entrance of the Plant Mural with native grasses and shrubs. Funding for Tawes Garden's Plant Mural Master Gardener effort is thanks to the Friends of Tawes Garden and annual grants from Unity Gardens, a non-profit organization supporting local and neighborhood native plant projects.



**New Faces on the Board of the
Friends of Tawes Garden**

We're happy to announce three new Members of the Friends Board. They are: Robin Lyttle, Pam Peters, and Judy Speaks. All three are longtime Annapolitans who have loved and supported the Tawes Garden from its inception. In fact, Robin is the daughter of Stevie Lyttle, onetime District II Director of the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland and a civic activist who was the inspiration and original driving force behind the Garden's establishment. The Friends are delighted to renew that connection. Pam and Judy both have wide ranging experience with local affairs and the desire to see the Garden improve and prosper. All three will bring a wealth of knowledge and new viewpoints to the Friends Board. We welcome them wholeheartedly.



   **Hooray for Pollinators!**   

Amsonia, aster, beardtongue, beebalm, black eyed Susan, blazingstar, butterflyweed, cardinal lobelia, great blue lobelia, goldenrod, Joe Pye weed, lyre-leaf sage, mistflower, mountain mint, obedient plant, ox eye sunflower, phlox, purple coneflower, sneezeweed, turtlehead, violets, wild bergamot, and yucca... these Maryland native pollinator habitat plants, and more, are growing in Tawes Garden! Many thanks to Tawes Master Gardeners, and MG co-chairs Cindy Wells and Kathy Devine, Tawes Garden now hosts a pollinator demonstration garden in the Plant Mural, as well as throughout the 4.5 acre garden.

A grant from Maryland Park Service Small Grants Big Impact funded native pollinator plant identification signs, which include notes on butterflies and bees. The pollinator garden is also in good shape for training purposes and programs, as well as visitation, while still in bloom through early October.

The next Tawes Master Gardeners/Unity Gardens native plants planting day will be October 9, from 10-noon. Please drop by if you'd like to see what it's all about!

Suzanne Weber
Tawes Garden Horticulturist



Board Members:

(of Friends of Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden, Inc)

- Mary Stuart Sierra, *President*
- Diane Feheley, *Vice President*
- Alison Burbage, *(Secretary)*
- Donald Myers, *Treasurer*
- Suzann Barthold
- Robert B. Bender *(Consulting)*
- David Davis *(Consulting)*
- Sarah Hilderbrand
- Robin Lyttle
- Bonnie Pavlak
- Barbara Small *(FGCMD Dist. II Rep.)*
- Pam Peters
- Lisa Siciliano
- Judy Speaks
- Cindy Wells *(AA Co. MG Rep.)*

HOURS:

Garden: *Daylight Hours, Daily*

Gift Shop: *Tues ~ Thurs.*
10 am to 2pm

Admission: *Free*

Tours: Tours are not presently offered, but the QR-coded **Tawes Garden Tour** can be accessed through visitors' phones. QR code stations are placed at various points around the Garden.

General Information Toll Free:
1-800-830-3974

GARDEN STAFF:

- Curtis Dale, Ranger
- William Steckman, Ranger
- Suzanne Weber, Horticulturist

Dates to Note

Full Moons: October 17,
November 15, December 15

November 3, Daylight savings ends

November 5: Election Day, Please Vote!

December 21:
Winter Solstice, shortest day of the year
and official first day of Winter

Recent Contributions to the Tawes Garden

(June 11 2024 thru September 10 2024)

Charles County Garden Club

Chesapeake Garden Club

Donations Box

Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens fundraiser

Unity Gardens grant

Those wishing to make a tax deductible donation should make the check payable to:

Friends of Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden, Inc.

P.O. Box 5502 **(New Number!)**
Annapolis, Maryland 21403

To Find Us

The Tawes Garden is located between Rowe Blvd. and Taylor Ave. near downtown Annapolis. The Garden can be entered either through the Tawes Building Lobby or by following the signs from the sidewalk along Sachs Dr.

Visitor Parking

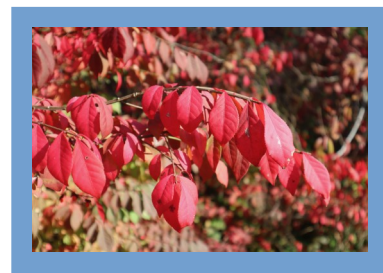
Visitor parking is available through Gate 6 of the Navy/Marine Stadium on Taylor Ave. (FREE). Parking closer to the Garden is limited during work hours, but there are several spaces designated as visitor parking on Sachs Blvd. across from the Tawes Building entrance. Spaces are generally available after work hours and on weekends.

Public Transportation

Annapolis Transit's Gold Route on Rowe Blvd (\$2.00) or State Shuttle. For more information, call 410-263-7964 or visit the [State Shuttle](#)

Seeing spots before your eyes?

Sometimes it's a good thing!



Autumn Bounty
(October – December)

*Fall foliage, Asters, Goldenrod,
grasses, mushrooms, ferns,
berries and seedpods*